

Amend claim 19 as follows:

19) --19. (amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said non-moving, vibrating magnetic field is produced by arranging electromagnets, each comprising an iron core and a coil wound over said core, in a facing relation on opposite sides of said mold along a transverse width thereof to lie side by side along a longitudinal width of said mold; and
applying a single-phase AC current having a frequency of 0.10 to 60 Hz, to each said coil.--

REMARKS

The objection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is noted, but is not believed to be well taken. In claim 1, there is indeed a positive method step, namely, that of applying the magnetic field as recited.

Claim 1 has been amended, however, to sharpen its definition of the invention over the cited references, as has claim 13, and formal changes are made in claim 19.

Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as anticipated by EP 0 754 515. This reference applies a vibration of high frequency of about 5 to 10 kHz, which is to say 5000 to 10000 per second.

During the continuous casting of molten metal, the metal is necessarily a rather viscous substance. Indeed, the continuous casting process depends on the metal having a relatively high viscosity.